Two Family Court buildings at Parliament Street and at 1, Kirpa Narain Marg, Delhi are under construction.

Shortage of skilled pilots

2313. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian ports are suffering because they don't have enough skilled pilots;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government are planning to give more incentives to the pilots to attract them to join; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) Majority of Ports are not suffering because of shortage of skilled pilots. In case regular pilots are not immediately available at any port due to some reason, ports arrange the work through contract pilots.

(c) and (d) At present there is no proposal for giving any more incentives to attract the pilots to join Major Ports.

Development of port at Patna

2314. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been decided by Government to develop a port at Patna on river Ganga;

(b) the amount sanctioned by Government for this; and

(c) by when and to which places navigation will be started from Patna?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government has sanctioned an amount of Rs. 25.50 crores for construction of an Inland Water Cargo Terminal at Gaighat, Patna.

(c) Navigation from Patna is already taking place, though on a limited scale. From Patna inland navigation is possible upto Allahabad in the upstream and also upto Haldia in the downstream and further to Assam through inland waterways of Bangladesh under the protocol route.

Development of coastal shipping

2315. SHRI DINA NATH MISHRA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are planning to develop and modernise coastal shipping on a large scale in the near future;

(b) if so, the various routes earmarked for it;

(c) the measures Government propose to take to decongest and ease the pressure off some high-density coastal routes; and

(d) whether there is any estimate of traffic and freight to be generated from coastal shipping?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) No Sir. However, it has since been decided by the Government to carry out a study on development of coastal shipping and Minor Ports.

(b) No particular routes are earmarked for development of coastal shipping.

(c) There are no congested and high-density coastal routes at present.

(d) No Sir.